

Riverside
Maidenhead
16 Oct. 1850

My dear Sir

I ought, perhaps, in
prudence, to have thanked
you for your Vol. of Poems
before - before I had read a
line of it. That is the usual
course: it saves a deal of
trouble, & you have nothing
then to do but to say "I am
much obliged by your little
Volume, which I am sure I
shall read with a great deal

of admiration & improvement."

Now, I am compelled to say that I have read some part of it, & that what I have read I like; but I undertook the task under disadvantageous circumstances, viz, when I was ill in bed & not very much disposed to form a favourable opinion. When I have read more, I will say more, if you please; or, if you please, I will be silent. I like what I read.

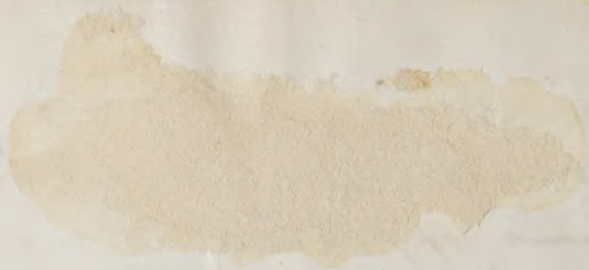
I conclude that the whole is substantially yours, as well as the "introduction," and that the latter contains a somewhat elaborated fiction - very allowable to a poet, or to one who aspires to be so considered. I am very

slow in giving the name of
"poet" to a mere rhymester, or
the ~~name~~^{rank} of "poetry" to mere
verses that jingle agreeably.

When you know that I
have just edited Shakespeare,
and that I am in the act of
editing Spenser (the wonderful
12th Canto of Book II has just
passed through my hands) you
will not be surprised at a
little chariness of laudation
in a case like that you have
laid before me. A poet is a
poet in spite of poor opinion. I
remain,

My dear Sir
Yours very sincerely
J. Payne Collier

C de la Pyram Esq.



Justice
Chief